



July 11 2014

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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[Airport](#)

The Airport sold 1,278.82 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 890 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 289 gallons; \$400 received in hanger rent; and \$2728.75 in cash sales.

[Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections staff have had a very busy two weeks! Filing continued for School Board and Soil and Water and ended July the 7th at Noon. One-Stop voting began on July 3rd and continued through Saturday, July 12th at 1:00 p.m. Voting has been busy for a Second Primary with 650 voting at One-stop and by mail as of 2:30 on Thursday, July 10, 2014. The Director has been busy in meetings preparing for the move of the Elections Office to Charlotte Road. Staff has begun the process of sorting, packing and preparing as much as possible.

[Building Inspections](#)

The Building Inspections Department has seen a steady increase in permit activity this year. In the past two weeks, the department has issued 81 permits totaling \$10,342 despite the holiday weekend. Included in those permits was 8 new houses. Our inspectors have conducted 251 inspections including issuing a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for Pioneer Bonita to occupy their new location to begin training new employees. The Director has been busy working to coordinate the plans for the combination of several departments to a new location on Charlotte Road as well as continuing to work with Polk County on planning and inspections for the Tryon Resort Equine facility.

Clerk to the Board

Monday, June 30 was a busy day as the agenda was being prepared in a condensed time frame. Commissioners began the new fiscal year with a meeting on Tuesday, July 1 to review the agenda for the July 7 County Commissioners' meeting. As Friday (July 4) was a holiday, the regular agenda review meeting scheduled for July 3 was changed to July 1. Commissioners attended the Transit Office celebration on July 3 and celebrated Independence Day on July 4.

Monday, July 7, was an especially busy day. Chairman Eckler and Commissioner Owens traveled to Greer, SC to view the inland port there. Secretary of the Department of Commerce Sharon Decker also attended this meeting. The regular monthly meeting of the County Commissioners was held at 6:00 PM that same evening.

Commissioners have been meeting individually with the County Manager since the interim budget was passed on June 23 in order to craft a budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

The Public Information Clerk has been migrating data from the old system of tracking boards and commissions to the new software application with Granicus, Inc. A total of 76 boards exist, 36 are active and there are a total of 302 seats. Department heads have been asked to help in the validation of existing members by submitting the contact information for their respective board members. Several have come in and it is helping, tremendously, in the process of accurately representing all of our appointees.

Public Information efforts for the last two weeks are: three media releases; the County's digital photo gallery is being uploaded; receipt/processing of three records request; launched the County's blog; made the County's Google+ site live; networked with Forest City's Facebook Data Center's newly added Community and Media Relations Team in person and with follow-up discussion on opportunities to partner in the coming future; and the PIC was interviewed by Shuree Jones (Online Marketing) of MeasuredVoice, California, for a blog article about Rutherford County's public information program and tools.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff prepared for Kids & Chefs day camp; submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier; met with Extension & Community Association Executive Council; prepared for upcoming events.

County Manager

The County Manager attended the goal setting session with the Board of Commissioners; met with staff to discuss the Development Services building; held weekly meetings with department heads; visited an Inland Port with County officials, the EDC Director and Secretary of Commerce Decker; attended the monthly Board of Commissioners meeting; attended a Sewer System meeting with Mayors and Managers from the County; met with representatives from Facebook and its new community relations team; met with the Sheriff and Chief Deputy .

Economic Development

The Economic Development Executive Director has met with the County Manager to review economic development activities; met with the Rutherfordton Interim Town Manager to review economic development opportunities; met with the planning director and FPS of NC staff to evaluate office space availabilities; followed up on an existing industry expansion project; followed up with NC Department of Commerce staff regarding industrial recruitment opportunities; toured the SC Inland Port facility with Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker, County Commissioners, EDC Chairman and Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Director; attended the Board of Commissioners monthly meeting; conducted interviews for the part-time EDC administrative position; prepared a report for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner; reviewed grant activity in support of recent projects; and prepared for an upcoming prospect visit.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via visits, phone calls and email; finalized information on Airport Fiber/Power study; worked with Rutherford County Tax Office to obtain information for existing industry; worked on compilation of Business and Industry Resource Guide and updates to introductory materials; connected two allies to an existing industry for introduction of possible support programs; connected Workforce Development team to an existing industry contact for introduction of support programs; created an article for the Annual Chamber event and publication; and updated and revised the departmental website and ensured that links were working.

Over the past two weeks the Economic Development Assistant completed and submitted a JDIG report for Commerce; worked on GoldenLEAF Foundation grant reporting; contacted allies and collected information in response to a public information request; completed the monthly building permit report and the safety report; sent out the public meetings notification and agenda for the upcoming board meeting; and sent out the minutes from the previous board meeting.

Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioners' meeting Monday evening. The Director continues to work closely with the Department Heads to close out the current year. The Assistant Director and Financial Analyst assisted with the Garage Inventory and conducted several petty cash audits. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director attended Commissioners' meeting; attended meeting with County law enforcement administrators to discuss VIPER radio system; assisted S.D.O. Fire Department with information for a station loan application; worked on Emergency Management Performance Grant activities; and performed maintenance on portable equipment.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hires Sandy Bumgarner (Transit), John McFarland (Transit), and Todd Kiser (Transit). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Paula Bowen (DSS—**Happy Retirement**) The Director attended the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, attended the Transit “Celebration of 125,000 accident free miles”, and met with Angela Ezell and Carl Classen. County offices closed on Friday in recognition of the 4th of July. The Director attended the monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Interviews were conducted for the Nutrition Site Manager and the part time Economic Development Secretary positions. The HR Specialist conducted orientation for new hires. The HR Director also attended meetings with Jeff Buchanan, Paula Roach and Carl Classen, as well as, attending a meeting with Chris Roach and Carl Classen.

Information Technology

The IT Department has closed 122 work orders over the past two weeks. Staff met with Planning, Environmental Health, Building Inspections, and BOE regarding the impending move to the Rutherford Plaza by September 1st. Staff completed the Exchange email server upgrade, and will now have to buy the exchange 2013 client versions which will be in next year's budget (2015-2016) so the look of outlook will not change but the backend programs have changed and are running much better. We are still working on the vaulting of all emails and have purchased a box called Barracuda that will handle vaulting. We are still ironing out details of the backend of the voip system with Avaya. Things are moving right along with the software upgrade of the Revenue Department. We are also making changes to the camera servers and trying to tweak better performance out of them as we prepare to add another 50 or so cameras to our network this year. We have upgraded Trackit as well and it should be up and running again, so use trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov for all your work order needs.

Library



All three libraries were filled to overflowing with almost 400 people attending this week's Summer Reading Program, with people being turned away at each place because of lack of space. Noah's Landing Exotic Petting Zoo in Coats, North Carolina, brought diverse animals such as a hairy armadillo, a baby genet, a two-headed gecko, a kinkajou, a molluccan cockatoo, a California king snake, and a brown skunk for the patrons to learn about and pet.

Next week's program is Zelnik the Magician, bringing his “Talk to the Animals” show at 9:30 a.m. at Haynes Branch Library, 12:30 p.m. at County Library, and 3:30 p.m. at Mountains Branch Library. And at 7:00 p.m. that evening at County Library is a free “Tales From Beyond” magic show for older kids and adults.





Santa Relays! Do you?

Rumor has it he is coming by the Pancake Breakfast this Saturday. Bring your camera to catch him, his smile and a special moment forever!

SHORT STACKS
FOR BIG CHANGESM

HOME OF THE HELPING HAND.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 19th

8am-10am

\$7 per person

All profits go to Relay for Life

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Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department Maintenance has had a hard and hot week with 62 work order repairs and the garage has been very busy with multiple service calls, repairs, and inspections. Planning and Projects continues working with regulatory agencies and contractors in Queens Gap Greyrock and the Developmental Services project. We have also been very busy with the historical Gilbertowne and Biggerstaff properties in addition to multiple plat reviews, coordination with the planning board. In addition an update on Community grants project was briefed to the Commissioners and coordination with the Manager and NCDOT regarding a Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Lastly the Director has had multiple meetings and conversations with the manager, attorney and other department heads.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 12 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$44, processed 192 real estate records with \$14,649 received in cash, and processed 118 vitals, receiving \$1,830. A total of 322 transactions were made with a total of \$16,523 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 949 phone calls, and assisted 364 citizens who came in to the office with 27 being PUV. 89 deeds were recorded and 73 were transferred. 41 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 7 splits, 3 acreage adjustments, 4 adjustment/transfers from estates and created 9 new maps. 5 new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 55 addressees was updated. Appraisers completed 726 field reviews and 39 building permits. Electronic payments consisted of 27 by credit/debit, 76 by website, and 1 by phone. 233 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 9 garnishments, 7 IPDC payments, and 3 payment plans. 16 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 22 overpayments, 7 plat reviews, 7 pre-permits, 1 data requests, 102 bankruptcy payments/issues, 10 discoveries, 48 releases, and 24 refunds. 455 pieces of mail were received and processed. 6 PUV letters sent with 278 being PUV Audits. 8 exemption applications were processed for 2015. Finishing up on Oct Motor Vehicle renewals.

We finished the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 with a 96.69% collection rate.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted Lt. Tammy C. Aldridge, Director of Rutherford County Communications/911 and Sheriff Chris Francis on July 1st to present a program called "Things to Remember When Calling 9-1-1". This program provided knowledge of what to expect when a 911 call is answered. The seniors enjoyed "Red, White & Blue" BINGO to celebrate the 4th of July. The seniors also played "Use It or Lose It" on July 3rd to exercise their brain for mental stimulation. We encourage seniors to engage in thinking games as well as learning new skills and hobbies to continually keep the brain functioning and alert. Studies show that the brain requires a consistent workout to stay sharp just like the body does to stay strong. On July 8th, master archer Jim Venerra came to the center to help the seniors practice their archery skills. Since adding archery to our list of events in the senior games, it has become one of the favored events. Tom Martin, RPH came on July 9th to present a program on "Medication Education". He focused on medication reactions and safety. Stephanie Ingle, MSW, LCSW, Behavioral Health Coordinator and Suzanne Porter, Community Engagement Team Coordinator, came on July 9-11 to present information on alternative treatments and scheduled several alternative treatment demonstrations on Friday. Lastly on Friday, July 11th, the seniors brought their unused and expired medications to "Operation Medicine Drop" for proper and safe disposal of these medications.

Social Services

The Department of Social Services Income Maintenance staff continues to plan for the further implementation of Medicaid in the NC FAST System. The regular weekly NC FAST Conference Call was held on Wednesday of this week and last week. Several staff will be going to Raleigh for training in the next few weeks as the hard launch begins in Medicaid. Last week the Director met with the County Attorney to discuss agency legal issues, as well as, attended a DSS Director statewide conference call. On Monday, the Director and Social Work Program Manager conducted interviews for a vacant Child Protective Services Supervisor Position, and will conclude the interviews on Friday. On Tuesday, the Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team (CCPT/CFPT) met and two CPS cases were reviewed. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the Director attended the Director's Association planning retreat in Concord. The agency was informed this week that they are one of four counties in North Carolina to be selected to participate in a multi-year grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in conjunction with the State Division of Social Services, called "*On the Frontline*". This initiative will focus on improving the delivery of Child Protective Services. Officials from the foundation will be visiting the agency over the next several months to observe our delivery system and interview staff members and stakeholders. DSS congratulates Paula Bowen upon her retirement after twenty three years of service. Paula was a social worker in the Foster Care/Adoption Unit and her primary function was licensing and relicensing foster homes. Enjoy a well deserved retirement, Paula!

Soil and Water

This week the soil and water Ag Cost Share Technician worked on spot checks for CCAP funds for the Division of Soil and Water. Had a CSP teleconference and visited with several farmers about their contracts.

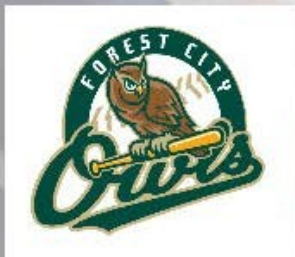
Solid Waste

The landfill served 260 customers, hauled 63 loads from the convenience centers, shipped 33 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers. The director attended the weekly landfill meeting with the County Manager, met with Airport staff and County Manager; had a sign review with the Public Information Clerk and met with David Odom about the future recycling compactors at Colfax and Avondale. Office staff has been busy compiling the year end reports for solid waste. The rest of the staff continues to perform everyday job duties while bush hogging and resealing the shop roof. Textile recycling has been going well at the landfill. We now have several of the bins installed at centers with more bins to be delivered in the near future. Landfill has three bins, Danielstown has two bins, Shiloh 1 bin, Colfax 2 bins, and Avondale has 2 bins. During the July 4th weekend we were able to complete repairs in the transfer station building. The solid waste code enforcement officer's report is as follows.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows: Active cases 12; Center cases 2; Citations written 0; Letters sent 1; Community service workers 5; Community service report 1



Textile Recycling Bins



MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT!

Sponsored by Hardin's Drug

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH

7:30 P.M

MCNAIR FIELD — GATES OPEN AT 6:30 P.M.

ONE FREE TICKET

**FOR CURRENT OR RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL.
DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS PURCHASED AHEAD.**

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY CALLING (828) 245-0000
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DONATE A NEW TOY, AND RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION!!



Tourism Development Authority

The TDA worked on its marketing plan for the equestrian center, performed another round of edits and writing for the new traveler's guide, discussed ICC's new hospitality program with Walter Dalton and with Lynn Minges, prepared for the upcoming Wayfinding meeting, prepped for the new fiscal year, and greeted thousands of guests during the busy fourth of July week — 1,010 on July 4th Day alone.

Transportation Services

EMS: This week EMS Personnel responded to 295 emergency calls and 134 convalescent calls.

Transit: Transit drove 18,131 miles, completed 2,117 local trips and 135 out of county trips, transported 342 unduplicated passengers and collected \$28,888.00 in revenue over the past 2 weeks. Transit reached a safety milestone with the completion of 125,000 miles without an at-fault accident or incident. In recognition for reaching this safety milestone employees were treated to a hamburger and hotdog lunch on Thursday 7/3/14. To celebrate with the employees, County Commissioners Chairman: Bill Eckler and Julius Owens along with the Human Resources office and Finance Director joined the employees for lunch. The Operations Manager attended the County Commissioners Meeting on 7/7/14 and accepted the NACo Achievement Award for the Free Shuttle Service to the Storehouse Food Pantry on behalf of all the employees at Transit. As of 7/1/14 Rutherford County Transit drivers are now running their daily routes paperless relying completely on the MDT's for all their information and instructions and are doing a great job with the tablets. The Deviated Fixed Route changes will go into effect on Monday 7/14/14. Transit has continued to advertise this change in the newspaper, on local radio, on the Community Communicator sign and with signage in every vehicle. Signs will be removed at the deleted stops and new signs posted at the added stops. Transit has welcomed 3 part-time drivers, they are Todd Kiser, Sandy Bumgarner and Danny McFarland. They completed orientation on 7/3/14 and began driving on 7/7/14.

Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 122 mail-ins, 0 facsimiles, 164 mail-outs, 209 telephone contacts, and 419 veteran contacts.

The Veterans Office helped out during the 4th of July celebration in Rutherfordton and attended a Marine League meeting. The County has a lot of upcoming events for veterans and information will be coming out soon.

July 19 is Military Night at the Owls Baseball game. All veterans will be admitted free with proof of service. The Veterans Office has tickets and information.

County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman
Greg Lovelace

Julius Owens
Roger Richard

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney



Stay connected!

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